# Autumn Internationals: Skelton and Valetini Rejoin Wallabies

Key forwards Will Skelton and Rob Valetini will reunite with the Wallabies roster for their concluding Autumn Internationals showdown against New Zealand in Perth next weekend, the management announced on Sunday, though scrum-half Tate McDermott appears almost certain to miss the encounter due to injury concerns.

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McDermott sustained a hamstring problem in the early minutes of Saturday’s 33-24 defeat to the All Blacks in Auckland, and the coaching staff confirmed that seasoned halfback Nic White had again agreed to delay his scheduled retirement to help the side prepare thoroughly for the contest next Saturday evening.

It doesn’t look mainly positive, Australian head coach Joe Schmidt said when addressing McDermott’s injury following the tense Eden Park fixture against New Zealand in Auckland, a match that exposed both promise and failings within his squad. Whitey is truly the gift that keeps repeatedly delivering. He was in the changing area with us tonight, and since he lives in Perth, his readiness is absolutely ideal.

He remains a highly influential presence inside the dressing room,” Schmidt added with a visible mixture of relief and gratitude for the veteran’s commitment. Despite the latest setback ending Australia’s ambition of regaining the cherished Bledisloe

Cup, there remains a faint chance for them to capture their first Rugby Championship crown since 2015.

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## Autumn Internationals 2025: Wallabies Armored by Returns as Ikitau Fitness Eases Concerns

Provided they can overcome the All Blacks in Perth, Argentina secures an upset victory over South Africa at Twickenham in London next weekend. Lock Skelton had earlier returned to his French club duties after contributing to one victory and one defeat during the Wallabies' tour of South Africa, while robust loose forward Valetini has endured an inconsistent campaign.

Repeatedly interrupted by a recurring calf complication that has limited his match appearances this year. Centre Josh Flook, who traveled with the squad during their South African campaign but did not actually feature on the field, has now been recalled to reinforce the squad's depth and provide additional options ahead of the crucial encounter looming next weekend in Perth.

Coach Schmidt clarified that Len Ikitau is not viewed as a major concern for the upcoming clash despite the influential inside centre being replaced after an hour in Auckland, prompting some speculation about his fitness among local rugby fans and reporters. We had several members of the squad dealing with a hard virus across

the week leading into the game, Schmidt explained during his post-match conference.

Len gradually lost energy as the contest progressed, and therefore, the substitution was primarily precautionary. He should recover well and be available for training, leaving us optimistic he'll be fully ready for the next challenge against New Zealand in the Autumn Internationals 2025, he stated. Australia staged a spirited late rally to close within two points of New Zealand on Saturday evening.

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## England Vs Australia: Wallabies Undone by Errors in Defeat

But their familiar pattern of conceding a significant early advantage again proved decisive in allowing the All Blacks to control the tempo of the match before eventually sealing victory. Schmidt acknowledged afterward that his dominant feeling was one of intense frustration, admitting that despite the evident progress in phases of their performance.

The side continues to lack the ruthless execution demanded at the international level. We absolutely have to improve substantially, the New Zealand–born coach remarked firmly, reflecting on the mistakes that cost his team momentum at Eden Park. We missed perhaps three or four times the number of defensive tackles compared with the All Blacks, and that statistic is entirely on us as a playing group.

We must metaphorically roll our sleeves up and ensure that we execute those opportunities properly moving forward, he insisted. We also need to manage possession with greater composure, because too often we surrender the ball cheaply under pressure. Our frustrations are significant, and they extend across multiple departments of our overall game plan.

We have quality players, but we must align execution with ambition. For Australia, the final match of this campaign represents both an opportunity and a test of resilience. Victory in the England vs Australia clash in Perth would not only salvage credibility but could also create a historic pathway to reclaim silverware that has eluded them for nearly a decade.

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